



BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of the Board of Police Commissioners Community Meeting Thursday, June 12, 2008

The Community meeting of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners was held on Thursday, June 12, 2008, at 6:30 p.m., at LA SED, 7501 W. Vernor, Detroit, MI 48209.

ATTENDANCE

Commentator

Erminia Ramirez

Panelists

Brian Fountain, DPD Inv.
Kyle Smith, Site Coord., Weed & Seed
Donald Johnson, President, Western District
Community Relations
Mark Machowicz, Community Organizer
Rev. Dr. Steven Archer, Pastor
Felipe Martinez, President, S'West. Bus. Ass

Board Members Present

Erminia Ramirez
Jim Holley
Mohamed Okdie **(ABS)**
Willie E. Hampton **(ABS)**
Ronald L.Griffin **(ABS)**

Department Personnel Present

Chief Ella M. Bully-Cummings
AC Robert Dunlap
DC Marshall Lyons
DC Leon Moore
DC Daniel O'Neil
DC Joyce Motley
DC Claudia Barden-Jackson
DC Leo Powers
DC Dwight Hudson

2nd DC James Tate
Cmdr. John Serda
Cmdr. Herbert Moreland
Cmdr. Jeff Romeo
Lt. Charles Wilson
PO Oscar Martinez
PO Hillard Gray
PO Pierre Mitchell
PO Viera Brownlee

2nd DC John Clark
Cmdr. Troy Quinn
Cmdr. Paul Wells
Cmdr. Benjamin Lee
Lt. Timothy Leach
Sgt. Mary Baritche
PO Steve Riley
PO Sophia Nelms
PO Shelley Holderbaum

Board Staff Present

Dante' L. Goss, Exec. Director
Personnel Director, Lawana Ducker
Arnold Sheard, Chief Investigator
Ainsley Cromwell, Supervising Investigator
Rosilia Madrigal, Senior Investigator
Leslie J. Griffin, Community Affairs Coordinator
PO Kent Cooper

OTHERS PRESENT

Sister Carol
Gloria Rocha
M. Plain
LaWanda Ruffin
Carol Etchie
Rene Ramirez
John Quinn
Evelyn Dukes
Rose Fereai
F.K. Simmiszick
Maria Ramirez
Tijuana Morris
Sandra Hines
Ron Scott

Horacio Vargas
Winnie Jordan
Josephine Smith
Charlie Thomas
Linda Wesley
Dana Thomas
Larry Kozyra
Jennifer Wanger
N. Cancel
Viera Brownlee
Earline Jones
Dustin Campbell

RECORDERS

Terence Bell
Robert Brown

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Ramirez called the Town Hall meeting of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners to order at 6:55 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION

Chairperson Ramirez welcomed everyone to the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners' Town Hall Meeting and introduced Comm. Holley and staff.

3. HISTORY & DUTIES

Chairperson Ramirez read the duties and responsibilities of the Police Commissioners.

4. SECRETARY REPORT

CITIZEN COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
2008 - Weekly Count of Complaints:	48	703
	25% Increase	4% Decrease
2007 - Weekly Count of Complaints:	36	735

- The Office of the Chief Investigator has a total of **1,244** active investigations, of which **592** of those are for 2008.

TOTAL WEEKLY ALLEGATIONS & COMMAND

Total	COMMAND	ALLEGATIONS									Total
CCR	W/E 06/12/08	Arrest	Demeanor	Force	Harassment	Entry	Procedure	Property	Search	Service	Allegations
5	CENTRAL		3				3				6
3	COMMUNICATIONS		1							3	4
1	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE		1							1	2
2	EASTERN		2				2			1	5
2	HOMICIDE						1	1		1	3
2	NARCOTICS						2	2		1	5
5	NORTHEASTERN		2	1	1		4			1	9
13	NORTHWESTERN		6				2			7	15
1	SOUTHWESTERN				1				1		2
2	TACTICAL SERVICES		2		1		1				4
8	Unknown Command	1	4		1		6			1	13
1	VICE ENFORCEMENT						1				1
2	VIOLENT CRIMES		1	1			1				3
1	WESTERN						1			1	2
48		1	22	2	4		24	3	1	17	74

5. GREETING

Chief Bully-Cummings thanked the Board and the community for hosting the Town Hall meeting. She stated all of the Deputy Chiefs would give a brief overview of their District.

She also stated the department is recruiting and admonished the people to refer good men and women. She further stated there is a recruiting table in the back and that the Personnel Director was present to ask questions.

She stated that with the limited manpower, every time a class graduates, they would be on foot patrol for 6 months to one year throughout the city. Also the Districts have a “park and walk”, and when the patrol officers are not on a call they, get out of their car and walk in a high crime area.

Chairperson Ramirez asked Director Vargar from LA SED to say a few words.

H. Vargas welcomed everyone to the Latin American for Social & Economic Development (LA SED) Center. He stated LA SED was very honored to serve as a venue for the Town Hall meeting to discuss police and community issues and concerns. He further stated that LA SED has had a very long - standing commitment to the city, which extends to the Detroit Police Department, especially the Southwestern District. He also thanked everyone for coming.

Chairperson Ramirez stated the new President for the Southwestern District Community Relations Council is Ms. Carla Webb.

6. INTRODUCTION OF TOWN HALL

L. Griffin welcomed everyone and stated that the purpose of this Town Hall Meeting is to engage in dialogue and strengthen the partnerships between the community and the police.

She also stated that citizens would be given the opportunity to write their questions down on a note card to have them addressed by the Board and panel members.

She acknowledged the presence of CAPPA (Community and Police Partnership Advocacy) and Ron Scott.

She further stated that the Board's Community Fun Day will take place on Saturday, June 21, 2008, at Patton Park from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

7. PANEL INTRODUCTION

Chairperson Ramirez stated last year when she took over as Chairperson of the Board, she set forth a number of initiatives that she wanted to implement for the Board to better serve the citizens. One of those initiatives was to have a Town Hall Meeting, along with a Community Fun Day. She stated to the citizens that the Board's History handouts were on the table and shared how they act as the liaison between the citizen and the police department. One of the key initiatives was more effective community outreach. In addition, we wanted to hold more forums, such as this, to educate and obtain feedback from citizens about public safety issues.

She stated we have attempted to gather a distinguished panel of speakers with varying backgrounds and expertise who will discuss the issues for us tonight. Our panelists are:

1. Inv. Brian Fountain, DPD Detroit Police Community Services
2. Kyle Smith, Site Coordinator, Weed & Seed Southwestern District
3. Donald Johnson, President, Western District Community Relation Council
4. Mark Machowicz, Community Organizer, Southwest Community Policing
5. Rev. Dr. Steven Archer, Pastor, Trinity St. Marks United Church of Christ
6. Felipe Martinez, President, West Fort Street Business Association

Chairperson Ramirez asked Inv. Fountain what could the department do to help officers deal with the issue of poor demeanor.

Chief Bully-Cumming stated the department is putting together a 40-hour in-service training and one of the training components will focus on customer service.

Chairperson Ramirez asked Mr. Johnson to respond to the question.

D. Johnson stated because the community relations council has moved to meeting location at the district, he has noticed how the citizens have developed a relationship with the officers because they see some smiling faces.

Chairperson Ramirez asked Rev. Archer to respond to the question.

Rev. Archer stated most people have a different perspective once they get to know the officers and have dialogue with them.

Chairperson Ramirez asked Mr. Machowicz what is your organization doing to help citizens file an anonymous complaint; and what do you do when you have someone who speaks Spanish.

M. Machowicz stated they call all fifteen of his locations and he would then contact the Community Relation Sergeant to file the complaints. He stated he would be focusing more on follow-up because that's what the citizens are requesting.

He stated the report forms are in both English and Spanish and he will be hiring someone who speaks Spanish to assist him.

Chairperson Ramirez asked Rev. Archer are there any types of problems with his congregation by having a collaborative relationship with the police department and the citizens.

Rev. Archer stated when he first came to Detroit, his congregation stated that he was Pastor to the neighborhood. He stated half of his job is to serve his parish and the other is to serve the community.

Chairperson Ramirez stated to Mr. Johnson that community police doesn't seem to be real for the majority of the citizens in Detroit. She asked if he thinks it is because of fear or lack of education.

D. Johnson stated it is the education. There is a very high illiteracy rate in our city. Many of the educated citizens need to go back to their old neighborhood and give them the tools that they need in order to be successful.

He stated the Advisory Board is currently working on an illiteracy brochure that will explain when to call 211, 911, and 311.

Chairperson Ramirez asked Mr. Martinez for a follow-up.

F. Martinez stated that the citizens need to go outside of their own neighborhood to see what is working in other neighborhoods and why there is a better relationship in other neighborhoods with the police department.

The citizens must also be educated and need to understand that there is a process to get things done and the police aren't always the solution for their problems.

Chairperson Ramirez asked Mr. Machowicz where his fifteen locations are stationed.

M. Machowicz stated the locations are: at his office 7741 W. Vernor, Bridging Communities on McGraw, Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation, Chass Clinic, LA SED, Latino Family Service Center, Bowen Library, St. Andrews and Benedict, Holy Redeemer Church, Caesar Chavez Elementary School, Lady of Angeles Church, Neighborhood Center Inc., Southwest Solutions, and Patton Park Recreation Center. There will be four new locations forthcoming.

Chairperson Ramirez asked Inv. Fountain would there be a Spanish Police Citizen Academy.

Inv. Fountain stated they don't have a date but are looking to have one some time this fall.

M. Martinez stated it is very important when the flyers come out for the academy that the citizens help to spread the word about it. He was part of the first Hispanic Citizen Police Academy and it was a great experience.

D. Johnson stated back in the early days, Southwest Detroit was divided into three areas, Delray, Latino and Southwest Detroit. While living in Delray, he wasn't allowed to go to Southwest Detroit because he didn't live there. Today, some of those folks have that same mind and they need to be educated about things such as this. Those neighborhoods became lumped together to bring the citizens together as a group.

Chairperson Ramirez stated they are one community. She then asked Ms. Smith to define the Southwest District's Weed & Seed sites.

Ms. Smith stated it started in 1991 with four sites in Detroit. Currently, there is one in the Western District and the Eastside has two. It has gone from four sites to over 300 sites throughout the country.

Chairperson Ramirez asked the panel if they had anything else they would like to add.

D. Johnson stated in the Western District, they have a program called "Crime Alert". That information is being distributed by email or fax and is then spread out to the community. This program has allowed them to apprehend some bad criminals. He thinks it will benefit the other districts as well.

Inv. Fountain stated if you are working on a grant and need to know the population and the income of your targeted area, you can google FFIEC and then type in your census tract.

M. Machowicz stated complaints could be filed anonymously by contacting his office at 313 554-9876. He further stated that they could be sent via email to: markmachowiz@yahoo.com.

Chairperson Ramirez stated the panel members will be here after the meeting to answer additional questions.

F. Martinez stated the first step towards community organizing is to communicate with your family and get to know your neighbors. Once you finish meeting the neighbors on your block, began to go throughout the neighborhood to meet those neighbors. You will find that this outreach is very productive.

8. DISTRICTS HIGHLIGHTS

Chairperson Ramirez asked the Chief of Police if the Deputy Chiefs could provide a brief overview of their districts.

Chief Bully-Cummings asked DC Barden-Jackson to talk about the Southwestern District.

DC Claudia Barden-Jackson introduced her staff and gave a brief overview of some initiatives. Such initiatives were crimes involving youth. To combat this issue, they have gotten those youth involved by signing them up for the Explorer Program. The BOUY Program has volunteered to assist them by doing drive by at the Middle Schools. The District has partnership with Noble Middle School and is providing scholarships to some of the students. They have a program in which they take the seniors to the movies once a month. On Saturday, June 21, 2008, they will have the anti-crime walk, which starts at Greater Merion Chapel at 15120 Grand River. The Southwestern District will be putting out a newsletter that will inform the citizens on everything that is going on in their community.

Chairperson Ramirez acknowledged the presence of Ms. Evelyn Dukes, President of the Detroit City Wide Community Relations.

DC Dwight Hudson introduced Cmdr. Vertin-Peltier, and stated the Western District has a program that sends out crime information. The president of the community relations then distributes it to the community. They also have a knock and talk program. They pick a neighborhood and knock on all the doors and talk to the citizens about any concerns. Information is being put into the church bulletin about the district. Saturday, 6/21/08 the Western District will hold their anti-crime walk at Sinai Grace Hospital, as well as a child safety seat program on Sunday, 6/22/08 at 2:00 pm at the District.

Cmdr. Vertin-Peltier stated in September 2008, they will have bicycle rodeo for children of all ages to do an obstacle course at the district. The camp will teach them all about bike laws.

DC Joyce Motley stated activities for the youth are very limited in the Eastern District. They have lined up several activities for them such as taking them to the boat races, Grand Prix and will also hold a bike rodeo on the corner of 7 Mile and Gratiot at Mike's Market. The district will provide license plates for the bikes. Their anti-crime walk will be Saturday, June 28, 2008, at East Warren and Connors.

DC Leon Moore stated the Northwestern District has signed up and additional 35 explorers for the Explorer Program. They will hold a BOUY meeting to try to recruit 50 additional businesses for the BOUY Program to continue to partner with the businesses within the district. The Northwestern District will partner with the Western District for the anti-crime walk on Saturday. The BOUY also took a number of youths to the Red Bull Boat race this past week. The district has a senior awareness program for the seniors to discuss any issues. They have a centralized CB Patrol that out of Bushnell Congregational Church located at Grand River and Southfield. The church is headed by Pastor Roy Isaac.

Cmdr. Serda stated on behalf of DC Fleming-Freeman he would introduce the Central District members. He then introduced Cmdr. Quinn. He stated they recently moved into their new location at 7310 Woodward. Their anti-crime walk will be Saturday, June 21, 2008, at Seward and Woodward. That area was targeted because of the high numbers of complaints from that area. The district has foot patrol in Harmony Park, New Center, Greektown, and Capitol Park. They have a partnership with CAPPa that deals with mental health issues within the district. In July, the partnership will be doing a count of how many homeless people are out there. The district has several events that are coming this summer.

DC Logan introduced Cmdr. Paul Wells and stated they had numerous complaints about an area in their district. The district put together an operation that targeted that area 24/7 to bring some relief to the citizens. A lot of tickets were written and a lot of arrests were made and the community was very appreciative. They have a senior day every third Wednesday of the month. On July 21, 2008, they will be taking about 225 seniors on a boat ride. The district will be hosting a back to school event to ask the community for any gently used items for small children. He stated their community walk will be June 28, 2008, at Butzel Family Community Center to reach out to the youths in the community. Also on hand will be the Detroit Martin Luther King, Jr. High School Marching Band.

Chairperson Ramirez thanked everyone for coming.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

DANTE' L. GOSS
Executive Director
Board of Police Commissioners

DLG/rb